

A PRACTICAL GUIDE FOR INCLUSIVE CLIMATE ACTIONS

FOR WOMEN AND GIRLS WITH DISABILITIES

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Acronym

- AWWDI – Advocacy for Women with Disabilities Initiative
- DRF – Disability Rights Fund
- UNFCCC – United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change
- OPD – Organization of Persons with Disabilities

- *Developed by: Advocacy for Women with Disabilities Initiative (AWWDI)*
- *Supported by: Disability Rights Fund*

Executive Summary

Women with disabilities are among the most vulnerable to the effects of climate change, yet they remain underrepresented in climate policies and actions. The Advocacy for Women with Disabilities Initiative (AWWDI) is committed to addressing this gap by providing practical tools, resources, and strategies for ensuring the meaningful participation of women with disabilities in climate action.



This guide aims to empower policymakers, advocacy groups, and communities with the knowledge to integrate disability-inclusive approaches into climate responses, ensuring that no one is left behind.

This guide offers a quick reference to essential tools and resources that focus on climate change impacts, human rights, advocacy, inclusive climate finance, and capacity building. By incorporating disability-inclusive policies into climate action plans, decision-makers can create a more sustainable and equitable future. The resources provided will help organizations, governments, and activists amplify the voices of women with disabilities and implement policies that acknowledge their unique needs and contributions.

AWWDI believes that climate justice must be inclusive. With the right tools, advocacy, and investment, women with disabilities can play a transformative role in climate resilience, adaptation, and sustainability efforts. This guide is a step toward ensuring their rightful place in the global fight against climate change.

The Advocacy for Women with Disabilities Initiative (AWWDI) is committed to ensuring that climate action is inclusive, accessible, and equitable for all. Women with disabilities are among the most affected by climate change, yet they remain underrepresented in decision-making processes. This repository serves as a vital resource for policymakers, Organizations of Persons with Disabilities (OPDs), Non-Governmental Organizations (NGOs), advocacy groups, and other stakeholders, offering practical tools, guidelines, and case studies that promote disability-inclusive climate strategies.

Recognizing the Impact of Climate Change on Women with Disabilities

Climate change exacerbates existing inequalities, disproportionately affecting women with disabilities in multiple ways. Natural disasters, extreme weather events, and environmental degradation can lead to displacement, food and water insecurity, and health risks, all of which pose additional challenges for persons with disabilities.

Emergency response systems, infrastructure, and adaptation policies often fail to consider accessibility, leaving women with disabilities at greater risk during climate crises.



This repository highlights the urgent need for inclusive engagement in climate action processes. It provides actionable resources to ensure that the rights, needs, and voices of women with disabilities are not only acknowledged but actively prioritized in the development and implementation of climate policies. Through this initiative, AWWDI aims to strengthen climate resilience by ensuring that disability rights are fully integrated into local, national, and international climate strategies.

Empowering Stakeholders with Tools for Disability-Inclusive Climate Action

To create a truly inclusive climate movement, governments, policymakers, NGOs, climate organizations, and OPDs must be equipped with the necessary knowledge and frameworks. This repository offers practical tools and resources to:

Enhance accessibility in climate adaptation and mitigation strategies

Ensure the inclusion of women with disabilities in climate decision-making

Develop policies that integrate disability rights and climate resilience

Improve disaster preparedness through disability-inclusive planning

Strengthen advocacy efforts for equitable climate finance and funding

By providing these resources, AWWDI fosters meaningful participation and representation of women with disabilities in climate initiatives. It supports the development of policies that not only consider their needs but also empower them as leaders and agents of change in climate solutions.



Showcasing Best Practices: Case Studies on Disability-Inclusive Climate Action

In addition to providing guidelines and tools, this repository features a collection of inspiring case studies that illustrate successful examples of disability-inclusive climate action from diverse contexts. These case studies highlight:

Community-led climate adaptation projects led by women with disabilities

Innovative sustainable practices that prioritize accessibility and inclusion

Successful advocacy efforts that have influenced climate policies

Disability-inclusive disaster preparedness models

These real-world examples serve not only to inspire but also to provide replicable models that other communities, organizations, and policymakers can adapt to foster climate resilience and disability inclusion

A Call to Action: Building an Inclusive Climate Movement

AWWDI believes that climate justice cannot be achieved without disability inclusion. The climate crisis requires a collective effort where the experiences, skills, and leadership of women with disabilities are valued and integrated into solutions. Policymakers, advocacy groups, and stakeholders must take proactive steps to:

[A Practical Guide for Inclusive Climate Actions.](#)

- ◆ Develop climate policies that prioritize accessibility and disability rights
- ◆ Ensure representation of women with disabilities in climate decision-making bodies
- ◆ Allocate funding for disability-inclusive climate initiatives
- ◆ Promote inclusive community engagement in climate adaptation efforts

By using this repository, advocates, policymakers, and organizations can take concrete steps to bridge the gap between climate action and disability rights, ensuring that no one is left behind in the fight for a sustainable and resilient future.

Bridging the Gap: Climate Action and Disability Rights

By integrating disability inclusion into climate strategies, the Advocacy for Women with Disabilities Initiative (AWWDI) fosters a holistic approach to climate resilience that acknowledges and addresses the unique challenges faced by women with disabilities.

Women with disabilities are disproportionately impacted by climate change, yet their perspectives are often overlooked in policy discussions.

This repository serves as a critical tool for ensuring that climate action is truly inclusive, accessible, and equitable.

The “Disability-Inclusive Climate Action – Repository of Tools and Best Practices” is a vital resource for advancing inclusive climate strategies. It empowers policymakers, advocacy groups, organizations of persons with disabilities (OPDs), NGOs, and other stakeholders to design and implement policies that uphold the rights and needs of women with disabilities. By embedding disability inclusion at the core of climate action, this repository contributes to a just transition—one that values and amplifies the voices of women with disabilities and ensures that no one is left behind in the movement for a sustainable and resilient future.



Through research, advocacy, and practical tools, AWWDI supports disability-inclusive climate solutions that recognize the leadership and resilience of women with disabilities. This repository highlights best practices, case studies, policy recommendations, and advocacy tools that stakeholders can use to drive effective, inclusive climate adaptation and mitigation strategies.

Understanding Climate Change Impacts, Policy, And Human Rights And Disability In Nigeria

Climate change is a global challenge that has significant implications for Nigeria, a country already facing environmental degradation, economic instability, and social inequalities. The effects of climate change are profound, impacting agriculture, water resources, and human health. These effects are not evenly distributed, disproportionately affecting vulnerable populations, including persons with disabilities. This paper explores the impacts of climate change in Nigeria, the country's policy responses, and the intersection of human rights and disability in climate adaptation strategies.



Climate Change Impacts in Nigeria



Nigeria experiences extreme weather conditions due to climate change, including increasing temperatures, erratic rainfall, droughts, and flooding. These changes have dire consequences for the country's food security, as agricultural productivity declines. Rising sea levels threaten coastal communities, particularly in the Niger Delta, leading to displacement and loss of livelihoods.

Furthermore, increased incidences of diseases such as malaria and cholera are linked to changing climatic conditions.

Vulnerable Populations and Climate Change

Certain groups in Nigeria are more susceptible to the adverse effects of climate change. These include rural communities, women, children, the elderly, and persons with disabilities. Many individuals with disabilities face additional barriers in accessing resources, information, and disaster relief measures.

Infrastructure and emergency response systems are often not designed to accommodate their needs, exacerbating their vulnerability.

Nigerian Climate Change Policies and Initiatives

Nigeria has taken several steps to address climate change through policy frameworks and international commitments. The country is a signatory to the Paris Agreement and has developed the National Adaptation Strategy and Plan of Action on Climate Change for Nigeria (NASPA-CCN). Additionally, the Nigerian government has established the Department of Climate Change within the Federal Ministry of Environment to oversee climate-related initiatives. However, despite these policies, challenges remain in terms of implementation, funding, and coordination.



Human Rights and Climate Change in Nigeria



Climate change poses a significant threat to human rights in Nigeria. The right to life, food, water, health, and shelter is jeopardized by environmental changes. Many communities are forced to migrate due to environmental degradation, leading to loss of cultural heritage and economic instability. Persons with disabilities are often excluded from climate policies and emergency response efforts, further marginalizing them.

Disability and Climate Change: Challenges and Responses

Persons with disabilities face unique challenges in climate change adaptation. Many rely on mobility aids, which can be difficult to use during floods or other disasters. Emergency shelters and evacuation procedures often do not consider their needs. There is a critical need for inclusive policies that integrate persons with disabilities into climate action plans, ensuring accessibility and equitable participation.



Case Studies and Real-Life Impacts outcome of AWWDI Survey

Several case studies illustrate the real-life impacts of climate change on vulnerable groups in Nigeria. For example, flooding in Lagos has displaced thousands of people, including those with disabilities who face additional hurdles in relocation and accessing relief services. In rural areas, prolonged droughts have exacerbated food insecurity, disproportionately affecting people with limited mobility or those who rely on assistance for daily activities.

Recommendations for Policy and Action

To address these challenges, the Nigerian government and stakeholders must implement more inclusive and effective policies. Key recommendations include:

- ◆ Strengthening climate governance and enforcing environmental regulations.
- ◆ Ensuring that climate adaptation and disaster response strategies are disability-inclusive.
- ◆ Enhancing public awareness campaigns on climate risks and preparedness.
- ◆ Providing financial and technical support to local communities for sustainable adaptation initiatives.
- ◆ Encouraging international cooperation and funding to bolster Nigeria's climate resilience efforts.

The Role of Civil Society and International Organizations

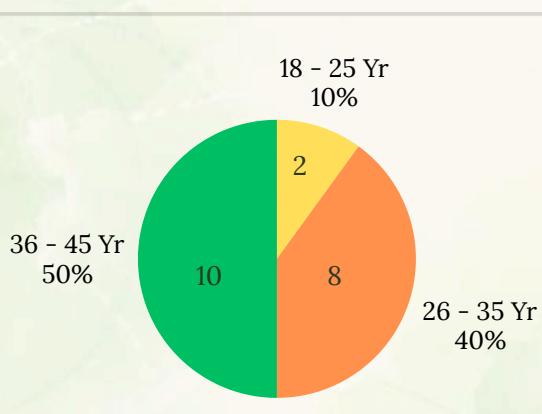
Non-governmental organizations (NGOs) OPDs, advocacy groups, and international bodies play a crucial role in mitigating climate change effects and protecting human rights. These organizations provide funding, research, and capacity-building support, advocating for inclusive climate policies. Collaboration between governments, private sectors, and civil society is essential in developing holistic climate solutions.

Climate change poses a significant threat to Nigeria, with profound implications for human rights and vulnerable populations, including persons with disabilities. While policy efforts have been made, much work remains to be done to ensure inclusivity and effective climate adaptation. A collective approach involving government agencies, civil society, and international partners is essential in building a sustainable and equitable future for all Nigerians.



Analysis of AWWDI Climate Action Questionnaire Responses

1. Demographics Analysis

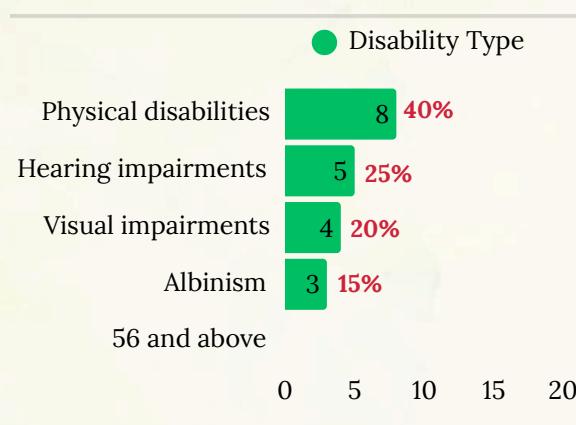


The age distribution of respondents reveals that the largest group engaged in climate discussions consists of middle-aged women with disabilities, particularly those aged 36-45 years old (10 respondents), followed by 26-35

(8 respondents) and 18-25 (2 respondents). The low representation of women above 46 years old suggests that engagement in climate action declines with age, which may be due to mobility challenges, reduced economic participation, or a lack of targeted outreach for older women with disabilities.

Respondents were drawn from various locations, including FCT (6 respondents), Lokoja (5), Nasarawa (5), and Niger (4). This spread indicates a reasonable regional representation, although it also highlights the need for increased participation from more rural or less-represented regions where climate impacts may be even more severe.

2. Disability Representation



The most commonly represented disabilities among respondents include physical disabilities (8 respondents), hearing impairments (5 respondents), and visual impairments (4 respondents). Additionally, albinism (3 respondents) was reported.

Notably, there was no representation from individuals with neurodivergence or intellectual disabilities, pointing to a potential gap in outreach efforts. The absence of these groups suggests that they might face additional barriers in accessing or participating in climate advocacy, possibly due to a lack of awareness, inadequate support systems, or communication challenges.

3. Employment Status

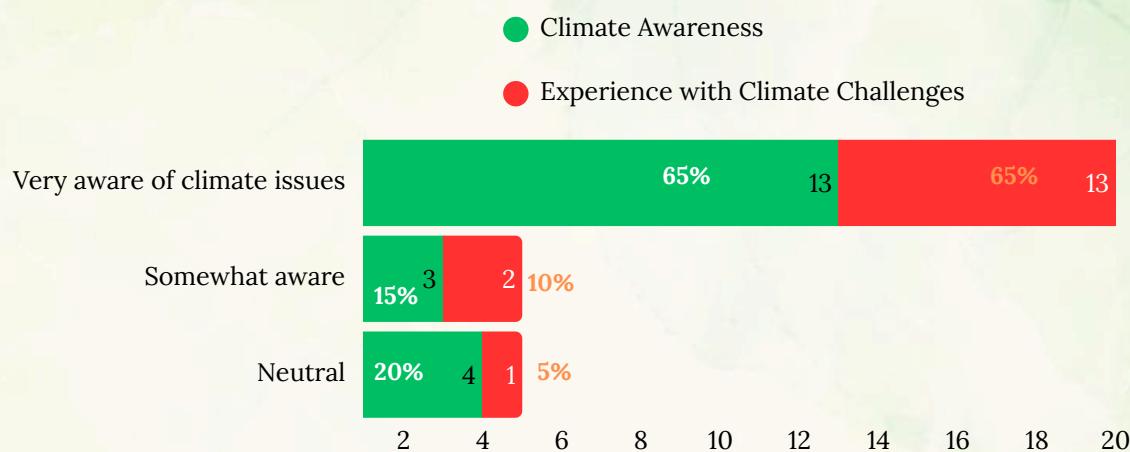


A significant majority of respondents are self-employed (15 respondents), highlighting the importance of entrepreneurship among women with disabilities. This may be due to barriers in the formal employment sector, such as discrimination, inaccessibility, or lack of accommodating policies.

Only 3 respondents are employed by others, while 2 are unemployed. The absence of students in the survey indicates that the responses primarily reflect the perspectives of working-age individuals rather

than those in educational institutions. This suggests that future climate action initiatives should include younger women with disabilities, as education is a key pathway to empowerment and advocacy.

4. Climate Awareness & Experience with Climate Challenges



A strong majority of respondents (13 out of 20, or 65%) report being very aware of climate issues, while 3 are somewhat aware and 4 are neutral. This indicates that while climate awareness is relatively high, there is still room to improve education and engagement, particularly for those who are neutral or unaware of climate change's specific effects on disabled communities.

An overwhelming 16 out of 20 respondents (80%) have personally experienced climate-related challenges, reinforcing the disproportionate impact of climate change on women with disabilities. This suggests that policies and programs must be tailored to address their specific vulnerabilities.

5. Impact of Climate Change on Women with Disabilities

The primary reported impacts of climate change on women with disabilities include:

- ◆ Health vulnerabilities due to environmental factors (11 respondents)
 - Many disabilities involve underlying health conditions that are worsened by extreme weather, poor air quality, and temperature fluctuations.

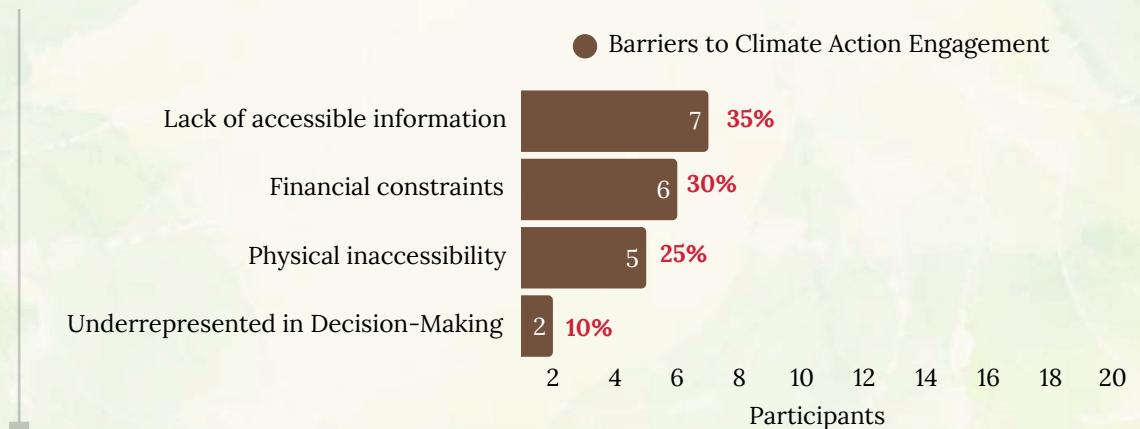
- ◆ Economic loss and job insecurity (6 respondents) – Climate change disrupts businesses, supply chains, and informal employment, making self-employed individuals particularly vulnerable.
- ◆ Limited access to evacuation services (3 respondents) – These highlights serious concerns about disaster preparedness and the ability of women with disabilities to access safe shelters during emergencies.

6. Participation in Climate Programs & Accessibility

Encouragingly, 85% of respondents (17 out of 20) have participated in climate programs, demonstrating a high level of engagement. However, accessibility remains an issue:

- ◆ 15 respondents found programs fully accessible
- ◆ 4 found them somewhat accessible
- ◆ 1 respondent found them completely inaccessible
- ◆ This suggests that while progress has been made, there are still significant barriers preventing full participation, particularly for those with specific accessibility needs.

7. Barriers to Climate Action Engagement

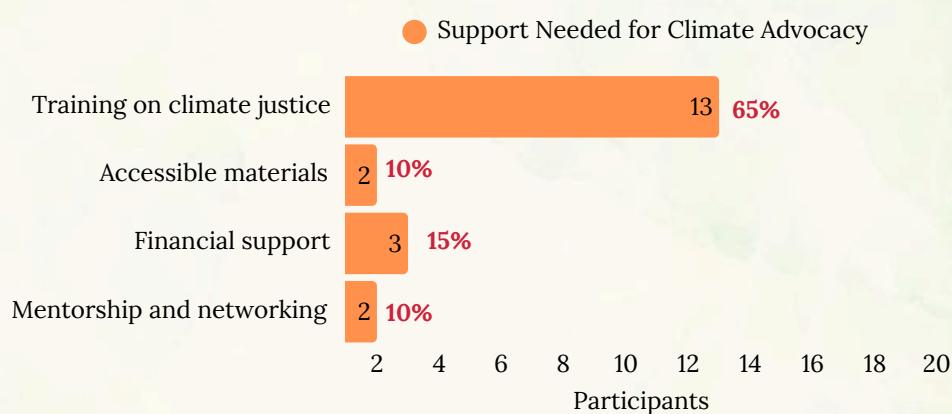


The major obstacles preventing women with disabilities from fully engaging in climate action include

- ◆ Lack of accessible information (7 respondents) – Many climate programs and materials are not available in braille, sign language, or easy-to-understand formats.
- ◆ Financial constraints (6 respondents) – Limited economic resources hinder participation, as many individuals cannot afford the costs associated with advocacy, training, or travel.

- ◆ Physical inaccessibility (5 respondents) – Many event venues, training centers, and public engagement spaces are not designed to accommodate disabilities.
- ◆ Limited representation in decision-making (2 respondents) – Women with disabilities are often excluded from leadership positions in climate-related discussions, limiting their influence on policy. participants

8. Support Needed for Climate Advocacy

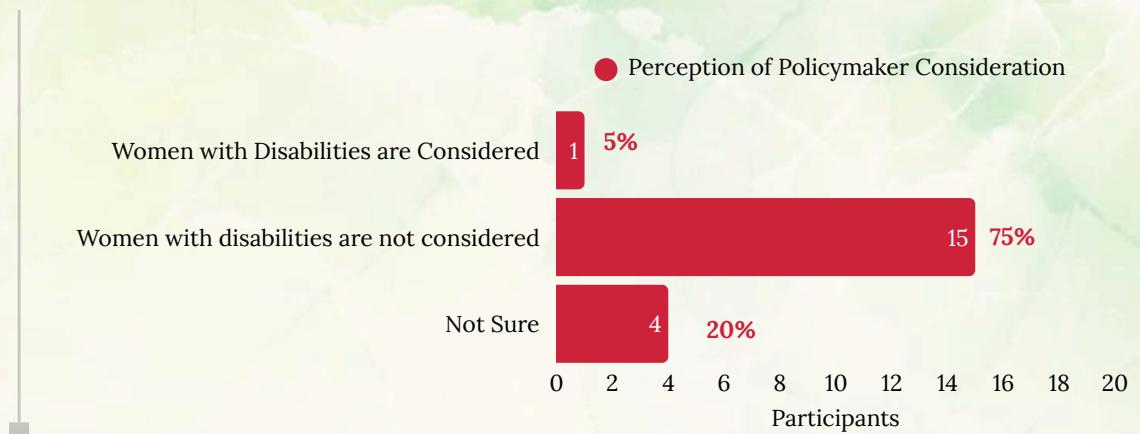


The most requested forms of support include:

- ◆ Training on climate justice (13 respondents) – Highlights the need for capacity-building initiatives tailored to women with disabilities.
- Accessible materials (2 respondents) – Ensuring materials are available in braille, sign language, and other formats is crucial.
- ◆ Financial support (3 respondents) – Funding for participation in programs, transportation, and livelihood resilience is essential.
- ◆ Mentorship and networking (2 respondents) – Building connections with experienced advocates and organizations can strengthen their engagement.



9. Perception of Policymaker Consideration



- ◆ Only 1 respondent believes that policymakers consider women with disabilities in climate policies. This represents just 5% of the total 20 respondents, showing an extremely low level of confidence in inclusion.
- ◆ 4 respondents (20%) are unsure, which indicates a lack of awareness or visibility regarding policy efforts. This suggests that even if some policies exist, they may not be well communicated or clearly inclusive.
- ◆ A large majority, 15 respondents (75%), believe women with disabilities are not considered in climate policies. This is a strong signal of exclusion and points to systemic neglect or oversight in climate-related decision-making processes.

10. Recommendations for Inclusive Climate Action

Key recommendations include:

- ◆ Accessible financing for adaptation (3 respondents) – Women with disabilities need financial support to build resilience against climate impacts.
- ◆ Awareness of intersectional climate impacts (3 respondents) – There is a need for more education on how climate change disproportionately affects marginalized groups.
- ◆ Inclusive climate education (2 respondents) – Schools, organizations, and communities should incorporate disability-inclusive climate education.

- ◆ Economic resilience is crucial for women with disabilities facing climate risks.
- ◆ Engagement of OPDs (2 respondents) – Organizations of Persons with Disabilities (OPDs) should be actively involved in climate discussions.
- ◆ Assistive technology for climate adaptation (2 respondents) – Technological solutions such as early warning systems tailored for people with disabilities are necessary.
- ◆ Inclusive disaster response plans (1 respondent) – Emergency response systems must be designed to accommodate diverse disability needs.

11. Future Engagement

All 20 respondents expressed interest in future climate initiatives, indicating a strong commitment to continued advocacy and action. This presents an opportunity to build on existing momentum and ensure long-term engagement.

Key Takeaways & Actionable Recommendations

1. Improve Representation – Future surveys should actively include neurodivergent and intellectually disabled individuals to ensure comprehensive representation.
2. Enhance Accessibility – Climate action materials must be available in braille, sign language, and easy-to-read formats to ensure inclusivity.
3. Strengthen Economic Support – Training, financing, and mentorship programs should be expanded to sustain engagement and economic resilience.
4. Increase Policy Influence – Women with disabilities should have greater representation in climate policy discussions and leadership roles.
5. Prioritize Disaster Preparedness & Health – Policymakers must ensure that emergency services and climate adaptation strategies are inclusive and accessible.

By implementing these recommendations, policymakers, advocacy groups, and climate organizations can foster a more inclusive and effective approach to addressing climate change for women with disabilities.

Disability-Inclusive Climate Campaigns

Climate change is a global crisis that disproportionately affects marginalized communities, including persons with disabilities (PWDs). Despite the significant impact, climate policies and campaigns often overlook the unique challenges faced by PWDs. Disability-inclusive climate campaigns seek to ensure that PWDs are actively involved in climate action and that their needs are integrated into climate adaptation and mitigation strategies. This document explores global efforts toward disability-inclusive climate campaigns and examines the situation in Nigeria.



Global Efforts in Disability-Inclusive Climate Action



International organizations and frameworks have recognized the intersection of climate change and disability rights. Some key initiatives include:

- ◆ United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC): Encourages the inclusion of disability rights in climate discussions and policies.
- ◆ Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction (2015-2030): Recognizes the need for disability-inclusive disaster preparedness and response.
- ◆ Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs): Goal 13 (Climate Action) and Goal 10 (Reduced Inequalities) emphasize the need for inclusive approaches to climate change.
- ◆ Global Disability Summit: Advocates for integrating PWDs into climate resilience planning.
- ◆ Non-Governmental Organizations (NGOs): Organizations such as Handicap International and the Disability Inclusive Climate Action Research Program work to highlight disability issues in climate governance.

Despite these initiatives, challenges remain in translating international frameworks into actionable, grassroots-level interventions that effectively include PWDs.

Disability and Climate Change in Nigeria

Nigeria, like many developing nations, faces significant climate challenges, including rising temperatures, desertification, flooding, and coastal erosion. These environmental changes exacerbate vulnerabilities for PWDs due to limited access to resources, infrastructure, and emergency responses.

Key Challenges:

1. Limited Accessibility in Disaster Response: Many emergency shelters and evacuation plans are not disability inclusive.
2. Lack of Policy Implementation: While Nigeria has signed international agreements, disability-inclusive climate policies remain poorly implemented.
3. Socioeconomic Barriers: PWDs often experience higher poverty rates, making them more vulnerable to climate-induced displacement and food insecurity.
4. Inadequate Representation: PWDs are rarely included in decision-making processes related to climate action and disaster management.

Existing Initiatives:

- ◆ The Nigerian Disability Act (2019): Though not climate-specific, it provides a framework for disability rights that could be leveraged for climate action.
- ◆ Nigerian Climate Change Policy and Response Strategy: This strategy does not currently prioritize disability inclusion but presents an opportunity for advocacy.
- ◆ Local NGOs and Advocacy Groups: Organizations such as the Joint National Association of Persons with Disabilities (JONAPWD) advocate for inclusive climate policies and emergency response mechanisms.

Strategies for Disability-Inclusive Climate Campaigns in Nigeria

To ensure that PWDs are not left behind in climate action, the following strategies should be adopted:

1. Mainstreaming Disability in Climate Policies: The Nigerian government must integrate disability considerations into climate strategies, aligning with global frameworks.
2. Capacity Building and Awareness Campaigns: Training policymakers, climate activists, and emergency responders on disability-inclusive strategies.
3. Accessible Disaster Risk Reduction (DRR) Plans: Developing early warning systems, shelters, and evacuation routes that accommodate PWDs.
4. Empowering PWDs in Climate Action: Creating platforms for PWDs to participate in climate advocacy, policy-making, and sustainable development initiatives.
5. Collaboration with Civil Society and International Partners: Strengthening partnerships with local and international organizations to mobilize resources and technical expertise.

Disability-inclusive climate campaigns are essential for equitable climate action. While global efforts have set a foundation, much work remains in ensuring that these frameworks are effectively implemented, particularly in Nigeria. A multi-stakeholder approach involving governments, civil society, and PWDs themselves is necessary to build resilience and promote inclusive climate solutions.

By prioritizing accessibility, representation, and policy implementation, Nigeria can take significant steps toward a more inclusive and sustainable future in the face of climate change.

Inclusive Climate Finance

Financial inclusion is key to ensuring that women with disabilities can actively participate in climate solutions.

Disability Inclusion and Climate Finance

Climate change disproportionately affects people with disabilities, yet they are often excluded from climate finance mechanisms.

Ensuring disability inclusion in climate finance is critical for fostering an equitable and sustainable response to climate change.



Challenges Faced by People with Disabilities in Climate Finance



1. Lack of Representation in Climate Policies: Climate finance policies often fail to consider the specific needs of people with disabilities.
2. Inaccessible Infrastructure and Adaptation Measures: Many climate-resilient infrastructures do not account for accessibility needs.
3. Limited Access to Financial Resources: People with disabilities may face barriers to funding opportunities, insurance, and credit schemes related to climate adaptation.
4. Disaster Preparedness and Response Exclusion: Emergency response systems often lack disability-inclusive plans, leaving people with disabilities vulnerable.

The Importance of Disability-Inclusive Climate Finance

- ◆ Equity and Justice: Climate finance should prioritize the most vulnerable populations, including people with disabilities.
- ◆ Strengthening Resilience: Inclusive financing mechanisms ensure that people with disabilities can participate in climate adaptation and mitigation efforts.

- ◆ Economic and Social Benefits: Inclusion leads to better economic opportunities and stronger communities

Key Strategies for Inclusive Climate Finance



1. Mainstream Disability

Considerations in Climate Finance Frameworks: Ensure policies, funding mechanisms, and financial instruments explicitly address disability inclusion.

2. Increase Participation of People with Disabilities in Decision-Making: Establish consultative processes that include

disability rights organizations in climate finance governance.

3. Develop Accessible Climate Adaptation Infrastructure: Ensure climate-resilient projects, such as green buildings and transportation systems, are inclusive.
4. Promote Targeted Funding Mechanisms: Introduce grants, microfinance, and insurance schemes tailored to address the specific needs of people with disabilities.
5. Improve Data Collection and Research: Collect disaggregated data to assess the impact of climate change and finance on people with disabilities.
6. Leverage Technology for Inclusive Solutions: Utilize assistive technology and accessible communication methods to ensure information on climate finance reaches people with disabilities.

In Nigeria, integrating disability inclusion into climate finance is crucial to ensure that climate initiatives address the needs of all citizens, including persons with disabilities (PWDs). Here's an overview of Nigeria's current landscape regarding disability inclusion and climate finance:

Climate Finance Landscape in Nigeria



Nigeria faces a significant shortfall in climate finance, receiving only 4% (\$704 million) of the \$17.7 billion required annually to combat climate-related challenges. Between 2015 and 2021, the country secured \$4.9 billion in climate funding, with 75% (\$3.7 billion) as loans, exacerbating the national debt burden. [Oxfam in Nigeria](#)
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Disability Inclusion Initiatives

Recognizing the unique vulnerabilities of PWDs to climate change, organizations like the Advocacy for Women with Disabilities Initiative (AWWDI) have launched programs to promote disability-inclusive climate policies: [awwdi.org.ng](#)
[+1awwdi.org.ng](#)
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- ◆ Inclusive Climate Action Team (ICAT): In February 2025, AWWDI introduced ICAT to integrate disability considerations into climate policies, disaster response, and sustainability efforts. The initiative collaborates with government agencies, civil society organizations, and media to ensure climate policies are inclusive and accessible. [awwdi.org.ng](#)
- ◆ Partnership with NiMet: AWWDI partnered with the Nigeria Meteorological Agency (NiMet) to address climate challenges faced by PWDs. This collaboration aims to create inclusive weather reports and climate adaptation strategies, ensuring information is accessible in formats such as braille, audio, and sign language. [awwdi.org.ng](#)
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Challenges and Recommendations

Despite these initiatives, challenges persist in effectively integrating disability inclusion into climate finance:

- ◆ Funding Gaps: The significant shortfall in climate finance limits the implementation of inclusive climate initiatives.

- ◆ Debt Dependency: Reliance on loans for climate funding increases the national debt, reducing resources available for essential services, including those for PWDs.

Disability Inclusion Initiatives



To address these challenges:

- ◆ Increase Grant-Based Funding: Shift from loans to grants to prevent exacerbating Nigeria's debt burden. [Punch News+1Oxfam in Nigeria+1](#)
- ◆ Establish a Climate Finance Hub: Create a centralized platform for tracking and managing climate funds with input from government, civil society

organizations, and local communities. [Punch News+1Oxfam in Nigeria+1](#)

- Empower Local Governments: Build local capacity for climate planning, allowing states and municipalities to access climate funds and implement localized resilience projects. [Oxfam in Nigeria+1Punch News+1](#)

By adopting these strategies, Nigeria can enhance disability inclusion in climate finance, ensuring that PWDs are considered in climate initiatives and that funding mechanisms are equitable and effective.

Climate Adaptation And Resilience For Persons With Disabilities (PWDS)

Climate change is a global crisis affecting all populations, but its impacts are disproportionately severe on vulnerable groups, including persons with disabilities (PWDs). Climate adaptation and resilience strategies must be inclusive to ensure that PWDs are adequately protected from climate hazards such as extreme weather events, rising temperatures, and food insecurity.

This paper examines climate adaptation and resilience for PWDs from a global perspective and highlights the situation in Nigeria, focusing on challenges, policies, and potential solutions



Global Perspective on Climate Adaptation and Resilience for PWDs

1. The Disproportionate Impact of Climate Change on PWDs



PWDs face multiple barriers in responding to climate change, including limited mobility, communication difficulties, and lack of access to emergency services. The World Health Organization (WHO) estimates that over 1 billion people globally have disabilities, many of whom experience heightened vulnerability to climate-related disasters

2. Policy Frameworks and International Commitments

Several international frameworks emphasize disability inclusion in climate adaptation efforts:

- ◆ The UN Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (CRPD) mandates state parties to ensure equal access to disaster risk reduction and climate adaptation strategies.

- ◆ The Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction (2015-2030) calls for disability-inclusive disaster preparedness and response.
- ◆ The UN Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) promotes integrating disability considerations into national climate action plans.

3. Barriers to Climate Resilience for PWDs

- ◆ Inaccessible Early Warning Systems: Many early warning messages are not accessible to people with hearing or visual impairments.
- ◆ Limited Mobility and Evacuation Challenges: PWDs often face difficulties evacuating during emergencies due to inaccessible transportation and shelters.
- ◆ Healthcare Disruptions: Climate disasters disrupt healthcare services, affecting those who rely on regular medical attention or assistive devices.
- ◆ Economic Marginalization: Many PWDs face unemployment and poverty, limiting their ability to adapt to climate-related shocks such as crop failures or extreme heat.



4. Best Practices in Disability-Inclusive Climate Adaptation

- ◆ Accessible Disaster Preparedness Plans: Countries like Japan and the United States have developed inclusive evacuation plans and accessible shelters.
- ◆ Community Engagement: Involving PWDs in local climate action planning ensures their needs are considered.
- ◆ Technology and Innovation: Mobile applications with voice and sign language features enhance climate communication for PWDs.
- ◆ Adaptive Infrastructure: Countries like the Netherlands implement flood-resilient infrastructure that considers PWD accessibility.

Climate Adaptation and Resilience for PWDs in Nigeria

1. Nigeria's Climate Vulnerability and its Impact on PWDs

Nigeria faces increasing climate challenges, including desertification, flooding, and rising temperatures. These environmental threats

disproportionately affect PWDs due to:

- ◆ Poor urban infrastructure and lack of accessible housing.
- ◆ Inadequate healthcare systems, especially in rural areas.
- ◆ Limited inclusion in national climate policies.



2. Policy Frameworks Supporting PWDs in Climate Adaptation

Nigeria has made progress in disability rights, but climate adaptation efforts remain largely non-inclusive:

- ◆ The 2018 Discrimination Against Persons with Disabilities (Prohibition) Act seeks to promote accessibility but lacks enforcement in climate initiatives.
- ◆ Nigeria's National Adaptation Plan (NAP) recognizes social inclusion but does not specify strategies for PWDs.
- ◆ The Sendai Framework in Nigeria highlights disaster preparedness but lacks detailed implementation guidelines for PWDs.



3. Challenges Faced by PWDs in Climate Adaptation in Nigeria

- ◆ Limited Disaster Preparedness: Most early warning systems in Nigeria do not include sign language or braille.
- ◆ Inaccessible Infrastructure: Evacuation centers and public transport are largely inaccessible for wheelchair users.
- ◆ Weak Policy Implementation: Despite legal frameworks, enforcement of disability inclusion .



in climate policies remains inadequate

- ◆ Economic Disadvantages: Many PWDs in Nigeria live below the poverty line, reducing their ability to adapt to climate impacts.

4. Recommendations for Strengthening Climate Resilience for PWDs in Nigeria

a. Policy and Governance

- Strengthen the enforcement of the 2018 Disability Act by integrating it into national climate policies.
- Develop disability-inclusive adaptation policies within Nigeria's climate change action plans.

b. Accessibility and Infrastructure

- Ensure that climate adaptation infrastructure, such as flood barriers and emergency shelters, is designed with accessibility features.
- Develop inclusive early warning systems using multiple communication formats (audio, visual, sign language, and braille).

c. Community Engagement and Awareness

- Conduct disability-inclusive climate education campaigns to empower PWDs with knowledge about adaptation strategies.
- Foster collaboration between government agencies, NGOs, and disability rights groups to design inclusive climate policies.

d. Economic Empowerment and Social Protection

- Establish climate-resilient livelihood programs for PWDs, such as skills training in sustainable agriculture and renewable energy sectors.
- Provide financial support and insurance schemes to help PWDs recover from climate-related disasters.

Climate change presents significant challenges for PWDs worldwide, with particularly severe impacts in countries like Nigeria, where infrastructure and policy enforcement remain weak. While global frameworks emphasize disability-inclusive climate adaptation, practical implementation is still lacking. In Nigeria, stronger governance, inclusive policy frameworks, improved infrastructure, and community engagement are essential to building climate resilience for PWDs. Prioritizing disability-inclusive adaptation will ensure that no one is left behind in the fight against climate change.

The Needs Of Women With Disabilities In Climate Actions In Nigeria

Climate change poses significant challenges globally, but its effects are disproportionately felt by marginalized groups, including women with disabilities. In Nigeria, where climate-related disasters such as flooding, droughts, and extreme heatwaves are becoming more frequent, women with disabilities face unique vulnerabilities. Their voices are often excluded from climate decision-making, and they encounter systemic barriers in accessing resources, adaptation measures, and relief efforts. Addressing their specific needs in climate actions is crucial for achieving inclusive and sustainable development.

Key Challenges Faced by Women with Disabilities in Climate Actions

- ◆ Limited Accessibility to Climate Information and Early Warning Systems
- ◆ Many women with disabilities lack access to climate-related information in accessible formats such as Braille, sign language, or audio versions. This exclusion limits their ability to prepare for and respond to climate emergencies.
- ◆ Barriers to Participation in Climate Policies and Decision-Making
- ◆ Women with disabilities are rarely represented in climate governance structures. Policy discussions and community planning sessions often do not consider their perspectives, leading to climate actions that do not address their specific challenges.
- ◆ Inadequate Infrastructure and Emergency Response Plans
 - Many emergency shelters, evacuation routes, and relief centers are not disability-friendly, making it difficult for women with mobility impairments to seek safety.
 - Disaster response teams often lack training on how to assist individuals with disabilities during emergencies.
- ◆ Health and Livelihood Impacts
 - Climate change exacerbates health issues for women with disabilities, particularly those with pre-existing conditions. Exposure to extreme temperatures, pollution, and displacement increases their vulnerability.
 - Economic opportunities are often limited, as climate-related events disrupt businesses, agriculture, and employment, further marginalizing women with disabilities who already face discrimination in the labor market.

◆ Gender-Based Violence and Social Vulnerabilities

- Climate-related displacement often leads to overcrowded shelters, where women with disabilities are at a higher risk of abuse and neglect.
- Social stigma and cultural barriers make it harder for them to access justice and protection mechanisms.

Recommendations for Inclusive Climate Action

1. Ensure Accessibility of Climate Information
2. Develop and distribute climate alerts in multiple formats, including sign language, Braille, and audio.
3. Use community-based networks to disseminate climate-related updates to women with disabilities.
4. Increasing Representation in Climate Governance
5. Integrate women with disabilities into climate policy discussions at all levels, from local councils to national climate committees.
6. Support organizations that advocate for disability inclusion in environmental policymaking.
7. Develop Disability-Inclusive Disaster Preparedness Plans
8. Design accessible evacuation centers and ensure that emergency services are trained in assisting persons with disabilities.
9. Provide assistive devices and transportation for those with mobility impairments during evacuations.
10. Enhance Economic Resilience
11. Implement climate-resilient livelihood programs targeted at women with disabilities, such as inclusive skill development in renewable energy, sustainable agriculture, and digital entrepreneurship.
12. Offer financial support and social protection schemes to help them recover from climate-related economic losses.
13. Address Gender-Based Violence Risks
14. Strengthen legal frameworks to protect women with disabilities in climate displacement settings.
15. Create safe spaces and specialized support services in disaster-affected communities.
16. For climate action in Nigeria to be truly sustainable and equitable, it must address the unique challenges faced by women with disabilities. By ensuring accessibility, inclusion, and targeted support, climate policies can become more effective and just. The Nigerian government, civil society organizations, and international partners must collaborate to integrate disability-inclusive strategies into national and local climate plans, ensuring that no one is left behind

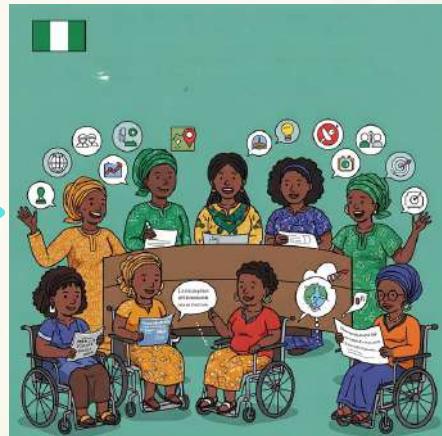
Building An Inclusive Climate Future

The Advocacy for Women with Disabilities Initiative (AWWDI) is dedicated to ensuring that women with disabilities are not just passive recipients of climate solutions but active participants in shaping climate policies and resilience strategies. As climate change continues to impact vulnerable populations disproportionately, it is essential to recognize that inclusive climate action is not optional, it is a necessity.

This repository of tools and best practices is designed to empower a broad range of stakeholders, including:



1. Policymakers:
Equipping them with tools to design and implement disability-inclusive climate policies that address the unique needs of women with disabilities.



2. Advocacy and Civil Society Organizations:
Providing strategic resources to amplify the voices of women with disabilities in climate dialogues and decision-making processes.



3. Financial Institutions & Donors:
Ensuring that disability-led climate initiatives have access to adequate funding and that financing mechanisms prioritize inclusivity.



4. Organizations of Persons with Disabilities (OPDs) and NGOs:
Strengthening their capacity to advocate for and implement inclusive climate adaptation and mitigation projects.

5. Governments and Development Agencies:
Encouraging the integration of disability rights into national and local climate resilience strategies.



Why Disability Inclusion Matters in Climate Action

Climate change is not just an environmental crisis, it is also a human rights challenge. Women with disabilities face heightened risks due to:

- ◆ Barriers to climate-related information – Many climate warnings and adaptation resources are not available in accessible formats such as Braille, sign language, or easy-to-read formats.
- ◆ Exclusion from climate decision-making – Women with disabilities are often underrepresented in climate governance, resulting in policies that fail to address their specific needs.
- ◆ Limited access to emergency preparedness and response plans – Disaster response systems often lack inclusive infrastructure, leaving women with disabilities more vulnerable during extreme weather events.
- ◆ Economic marginalization – Climate change disrupts livelihoods, exacerbating financial inequalities for women with disabilities who already face employment barriers.

Increased risk of gender-based violence (GBV) – Climate-induced displacement and humanitarian crises create unsafe environments for women with disabilities, increasing their exposure to exploitation and abuse.

Awwdi's Commitment To Inclusive Climate Action

To bridge the gap between climate action and disability rights, AWWDI is leading efforts to:

Integrate Disability-Inclusive Policies:

Advocating for national and international climate frameworks that prioritize the rights and needs of women with disabilities.

Capacity Building:

Providing training and resources to ensure that organizations and policymakers understand the intersection of disability and climate change.

Advancing Inclusive Climate Financing:

Ensuring that funding mechanisms recognize and support disability-led climate resilience initiatives.

Strengthening Advocacy & Representation:

Creating platforms for women with disabilities to actively participate in climate decision-making at all levels.

Take Action Now

By using these resources, stakeholders can help close the inclusion gap, ensuring that climate solutions leave no one behind. AWWDI invites all advocates, policymakers, donors, and organizations to take meaningful steps toward building a truly inclusive and resilient climate future.

Climate And Disability Justice

Climate change is an urgent global crisis with severe implications for marginalized communities, particularly people with disabilities. The intersection of climate justice and disability justice highlights the disproportionate impact of environmental challenges on disabled individuals while advocating for inclusive solutions. This paper explores global perspectives on climate and disability justice and examines the situation in Nigeria, emphasizing the need for intersectional policies and practices.

Climate and Disability Justice: A Global Perspective

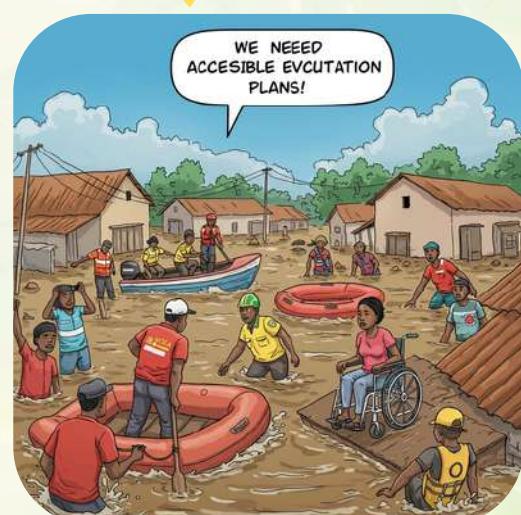
Climate justice focuses on equitable solutions to environmental challenges, ensuring that vulnerable populations receive the support they need. Disability justice, on the other hand, advocates for the rights and inclusion of disabled people in all aspects of society. When these frameworks intersect, they reveal critical gaps in disaster preparedness, accessibility, and representation in climate policies.

Disproportionate Impact of Climate Change on Disabled Individuals

1.

Increased Vulnerability:

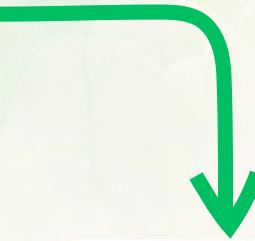
People with disabilities face heightened risks during climate-related disasters such as floods, heat waves, and wildfires. Limited mobility, reliance on assistive devices, and medical conditions make evacuations and emergency responses challenging.



2.

Barriers to Adaptation and Mitigation Strategies:

Many climate policies and infrastructure projects fail to consider disability needs. Inaccessible public transportation, emergency shelters, and early warning systems exclude disabled individuals from vital safety measures.



STILL EXCLUDED.

3.

Health Consequences:

Climate change exacerbates health conditions due to extreme temperatures, air pollution, and vector-borne diseases. Disabled individuals, especially those with chronic illnesses, suffer more from these environmental changes.



Global Efforts Toward Inclusive Climate Action

Several international organizations and frameworks emphasize the need for inclusive climate policies:

- United Nations Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (UNCRPD): Advocates for disability-inclusive policies in climate adaptation and disaster risk reduction.
- Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction (2015-2030): Promotes accessibility and participation of disabled individuals in disaster preparedness.
- Paris Agreement: Highlights the necessity of protecting vulnerable populations, though it lacks specific mandates for disability inclusion.

Climate and Disability Justice in Nigeria

Nigeria faces significant climate-related challenges, including rising temperatures, flooding, and desertification. These environmental changes disproportionately affect disabled individuals due to systemic barriers and inadequate support structures.

Challenges for PWDs in Nigeria's Climate Crisis

1. Limited Accessibility in Disaster Response: Emergency response plans often lack provisions for people with disabilities, leading to higher mortality and displacement rates during floods and extreme weather events.
2. Economic Marginalization: Many disabled individuals in Nigeria experience unemployment and poverty, limiting their ability to recover from climate-related damages.
3. Healthcare Barriers: Extreme weather conditions and environmental degradation affect access to healthcare services, medications, and assistive devices, worsening health disparities.
4. Lack of Representation in Policy-Making: Disabled communities are frequently excluded from climate discussions and policy development, resulting in solutions that do not address their needs.

Existing Policies and Their Shortcomings

- Nigeria's National Climate Change Policy: While the policy acknowledges vulnerable populations, it lacks specific strategies for disability inclusion.
- Disability Rights Act (2019): This legislation mandates accessibility but does not explicitly integrate climate adaptation measures.
- Disaster Management by NEMA (National Emergency Management Agency): NEMA provides disaster response but lacks a comprehensive disability-inclusive approach.

Recommendations for Inclusive Climate and Disability Justice in Nigeria

1. Inclusive Disaster Preparedness and Response

- Implement early warning systems that are accessible to people with disabilities (e.g., visual, auditory, and cognitive impairments).
- Train emergency responders in disability-inclusive rescue and relief efforts.

2. Policy Integration and Implementation

- Ensure Nigeria's climate policies incorporate disability rights and accessibility mandates.
- Establish disability-focused committees in climate governance to enhance representation and advocacy.

3. Improving Infrastructure and Accessibility

- Develop climate-resilient infrastructure that considers the mobility and accessibility needs of disabled individuals.
- Increase investment in assistive technologies to help disabled individuals cope with climate-induced changes.

4. Economic Empowerment and Social Support

- Provide financial aid, job training, and entrepreneurship opportunities for disabled people affected by climate-related disruptions.
- Strengthen social safety nets to ensure access to healthcare, housing, and basic services.

5. Community-Based Solutions and Awareness

- Engage local communities in participatory climate action that includes disabled voices.
- Conduct awareness campaigns to highlight the intersection of climate change and disability justice.

Climate change poses significant threats to people with disabilities, both globally and in Nigeria. While international frameworks acknowledge these challenges, more concrete actions are needed at the national and local levels to ensure inclusivity in climate policies and disaster response. Nigeria must take proactive steps to integrate disability justice into its climate strategies, ensuring no one is left behind in the fight against environmental change.

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